(b) Air India operates direct flights from Calcutta to Thailand and Japan.

(c) to (e) Air India provides connections over Mumbai for passengers from Calcutta to U.A.E., Bahrain, Thailand, U.S.A. Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, U.K., Italy, Israel, Japan and Switzerland.

Mining in Gujarat

6276. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where mining works have been undertaken in Gujarat, specially in tribal and backward areas during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the achievements;

(c) whether technical assistance has been sought or proposed to be sought from some foreign institutions in the mining work in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the foreign comapnies have been sought for in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recommendation of Secretaries Panel of Media

6277. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of secretaries recommended that media cross holdings be allowed between broadcast and newspaper companies as mentioned in the Business Standard dated February 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) whether final decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Secretaries Panel; and

(d) the present status of the recommendations made by the panel and the time by which the Government are likely to take a final view in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Government intends to introduce a Broadcasting Bill in the current session of Parliament which, inter-alia, will address the issue of cross media holdings.

Procurement of MARR System

6278. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 6000 pieces of MARR system are being procured;

(b) whether suitability of the system for the country has been examined; and

(c) the performance of the existing rural telephone network especially in Vizianagram in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following quantities are being procured for 1997-98:-

2/15 UHF MARR System	1928 nos.
4/36 UHF MARR System	1492 nos.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the rural telephone network in Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory. All the rural exchange of Vizianagram are electronic and linked with group dialling. The fault rate of rural networks is around 11 per cent.

Change in Name of Railway Station

6279. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some suggestions to change the name of Divanapur railway station (North East Railways) to "Sukhram Dham"; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Signalling Project

6280. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran has signed a contract for $ 25 million Ahwaj Bandar E. Imam Signalling project recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time fixed for completion of the project;

(d) the mode of payment adopted for the project; and

(e) the details of projects completed by the Indian Railways in Iran so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Subsequently, section has been changed to Shahroud-Mashad Section.

(b) The work involves providing Advanced Signalling System like Centralised Traffic Control, Relay Interlocking, Wheel Detectors, Hot-Box Detectors etc. The work basically consists of — supply of materials and supervision of installations.